

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9143

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0971

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, IS, JO, XF

SUBJ: WEST BANK MAYORS PREPARING POLICY STATEMENT

1. SUMMARY: THE MAYORS ARE NEGOTIATING A SET OF PRINCIPLES OUTLINING WEST BANK POSITION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. PRINCIPLES CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO JUNE 1967 BORDERS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC PALESTINIAN STATE IN RETURN FOR A JUST PEACE WITH ISRAEL. THE PLO IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE LEGITIMATE (BUT NOT SOLE) REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND IS CALLED UPON TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE PALESTINIANS AT GENEVA. END SUMMARY.

2. MAYORS OF THE MAJOR WEST BANK TOWNS HAVE MET TO NEGOTIATE A SET OF PRINCIPLES WHICH WILL CONSTITUTE A UNIFIED WEST BANK POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE MAYORS WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS.

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TENTATIVE ACCORD WAS REACHED AT A MEETING JUNE 29 IN NABLUS ATTENDED BY HILMI HANUN OF TULKARM, BASSAM SHAKA' OF NABLUS, IBRAHIM TAWIL OF AL BIRA, KARIM KHALAF OF RAMALLAH, ELIAS FREIJ OF BETHLEHEM AND MOHAMMAD MULHIM OF HALHUL. (FAHD QAWASIMA OF HEBRON DID NOT ATTEND BECAUSE HE IS MOURNING THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER.) ANOTHER MEETING IS

SET FOR JULY 2 IN BETHLEHEM WHEN THE FINAL STATEMENT IS SLATED TO BE SIGNED BEFORE BEING RELEASED TO THE PRESS.

3. THE DOCUMENT INCLUDES SIX PRINCIPLES:

A. REJECTION OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

B. A DEMAND FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE JUNE, 1967 BORDERS.

C. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK.

D. RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

E. A CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO.

F. A JUST PEACE WITH ISRAEL IN WHICH THE PALESTINIANS WILL PARTICIPATE

5. THE MAYORS ARE PREPARING THEIR DOCUMENT AT THIS TIME BECAUSE THEY FEEL A NEED FOR A UNITED
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STAND IN THE FACE OF THE LIKUD THREAT AND BECAUSE MANY WHO ARE NOT ON GOOD TERMS WITH JORDAN FEEL A NEED FOR WEST BANK SOLIDARITY VIA-A-VIS THE GOJ.

6. DISAGREEMENTS AROSE OVER A NUMBER OF POINTS BUT MODERATE VIEWS HAVE PREVAILED. HENCE, THE PLO WHILE ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE IS NOT ACCORDED THE STATUS OF SOLE REPRESENTATIVE AND THE '67 BORDERS ARE EXPLICITLY STATED AS THE TERRITORIAL DEMAND FOR WHICH PEACE WILL BE MADE. LIKEWISE, REFERENCE TO US MIDDLE EAST POLICY AS "TWO-FACED" WAS REJECTED. REFERENCE TO A "DEMOCRATIC" PALESTINIAN STATE IS MEANT BY MODERATES TO PROVIDE FOR FREE ELECTIONS OF THE LEADERSHIP RATHER THAN IMPOSITION OF ANY LEADERSHIP, I.E. PLO, FROM OUTSIDE.

7. COMMENT: IF ADOPTED AS COMMUNICATED TO US, THE WEST BANK STATEMENT WOULD REPRESENT THE CLEAREST, MOST MODERATE, AND MOST UNIFIED POLITICAL STAND EVER ADOPTED BY WEST BANK PALESTINIANS. IT WOULD LIMIT PALESTINIAN AMBITIONS AND LEAVE AN OPENING FOR WEST BANK PARTICIPATION, AS PART OF THE PLO, AT

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. IT WOULD BE FIRST
EXAMPLE OF WEST BANKERS PUBLICLY GOING BEYOND
THE PLO IN EXPRESSING A READINESS FOR PEACE AND
OUTLINING TERMS THEREOF. IF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
OF WEST BANKERS ARE ABLE TO AGREE ON POLICY
STATEMENT WHICH GOES BEYOND TRADITIONAL "PLO SPEAKS FOR US"
STANCE, THIS IN ITSELF IS A SIGNIFICANT NEW
DEVELOPMENT IN POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE TERRITORY.
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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